BLM - SURPRISE FIELD OFFICE

Little Basin Allotment # 01004

DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR DETERMINATIONS:
ACHIEVEMENT OF RANGELAND HEALTH STANDARDS,
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION PRIORITIES

THIS FORM DOCUMENTS, FOR THE INDICATED AREA: (1) DETERMINATIONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE REGARDING IF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH CONDITIONS CITED IN 43 CFR 4180.1 EXIST IN THESE AREAS; (2) DETERMINATIONS, IN CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE CONDITIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH DO NOT EXIST, REGARDING THE STANDARD(S) THAT IS (ARE) NOT ACHIEVED; (3) DETERMINATIONS, IN THOSE CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACHIEVED, REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) THAT IS (ARE) PREVENTING STANDARD(S) ACHIEVEMENT OR IS (ARE)PREVENTING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ITS (THEIR) ACHIEVEMENT; AND, (4) THE INFORMATION THAT WAS EXAMINED THAT SUPPORT THESE DETERMINATIONS.

Indicate the date(s) or period the information review occurred: **1986 to 2008**

PART I - IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT AREA

A. Indicate area where these determinations and rationale apply:

1. ☐ **Site** (Specific Geographic Area) within Management Unit (allotment or pasture):
   Allotment name/no.: **Little Basin Allotment #01004**
   Place name: _____
   Legal location (if needed to ID site): _____
   Approximate size in acres: _____
   (or linear length if lotic riparian)
2. ■ **Management Unit** (allotment or pasture - list name / no. / acres):
   Little Basin Allotment #01004; 28,776 public acres
3. ☐ **Landscape** (identify by groups of management units, or by watershed if cross-cutting MU's and list):
   _____
4. ☐ **Other Stratification** (identify - e.g., all riparian areas in XYZ Pasture):
   _____

PART II - IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION REVIEWED

The following information was reviewed in **February – May of 2008** to determine standards attainment in compliance with 43 CFR 4180.2**: Actual use reports, utilization, Rangeland Health Assessment Data, and Riparian Functional Assessment data**
The following information (e.g. monitoring, literature, personal communication, etc.) was considered to determine standards attainment and, if applicable, contributing factor(s) to their non-achievement and failure to make significant progress towards their achievement.

Field Data Indicators evaluated at 5 evaluation sites on the Little Basin Allotment in September 2002; these sites were re-visited in 2008 to confirm the ratings. The results of 17 indicators at the 5 evaluations sites are summarized below:

Rangeland Health Attributes		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight	∑
Soils	Soils/Site Stability Indicators 1-9 & 11			**3**	**34**	**13**	**50**
Hydrologic	Hydrologic Function Indicators 1-5, 8-11 &14			**3**	**39**	**13**	**55**
Biotic	Biotic Integrity Indicators 8-9 & 11-17		**1**	**4**	**33**	**7**	**45**

Discussion of Specific Indicators (as needed):

Little Basin Allotment 2002 Evaluation Sites:

Pasture Name	Site Number	Ecological Site Name
Bottomlands Pasture	**NV 24 - 22**	**Sodic Terrace 8 - 10" P.Z.**
Seeding Pasture	**NV 23 - 06**	**Loamy 8 - 10" P. Z.**
Spray and Release Pasture	**NV 23 - 51**	**Sandy 8 - 12" P.Z.**
Upland Pasture	**NV 23 - 31**	**Claypan 10 - 14" P.Z.**
Upland Pasture	**NV 23 - 94**	**Ashy Slope 12-14" P.Z.**

No moderate or higher ratings were observed in the Native pastures.

In the Spray/release and Seeding pasture one moderate to extreme departure for the perennial plant reproductive capability indicator was recorded. The Little Basin crested wheatgrass seeding was established in 1983 and the spray/release pasture was established earlier and retreated in 1982.

In 2002 crested wheatgrass plants in the seeding pasture exhibited low vigor. The crested wheatgrass plants were also observed to not be producing adequate amounts of seeds to maintain the reproductive capability. Management records from this evaluation indicated the conditions observed were due to drought and growing season heavy utilization levels. The 2002 evaluation of the spray/release pasture documented better conditions. During the 2002 evaluation, higher plant composition of rabbit brush and perennial grasses were recorded.

The 2002 evaluation documented moderate departures in bare ground and annual production at each of the evaluation sites in the Spray/release and Seeding pastures. These departures were a result of low production and vigor of crested wheatgrass plants in the seeding and open densities and distribution of native grasses within the spray/release pasture. In addition, records indicate that for existing grass plants in both pastures, the basal area of the grass crowns were smaller than expected.

An abundance of larger grass crowns with dead centers would indicate on-going livestock use is producing the departures. In this case however, the small diameter grass crowns are an indication that both fields have been released and recruitment has produced an abundance of younger plants. These conditions are not unexpected given the age of the stand, however actual use records were reviewed to further verify that permitted livestock use is not contributing to the existing conditions.

Livestock use occurred in the spray/release pasture in four of the last eleven years and in six of the last eleven years in the seeding pasture. During these years actual use in the seeding averaged 228% of permitted use as a result of temporary non-renewable authorizations (high 273% and low 154%). In the spray/release pasture, actual use averaged 281% of permitted use (high465% low 88%). These records support the conclusion that livestock use has not produced the departures recorded.

A moderate departure for wind scoured areas was observed at one evaluation site in the seeding pasture. This departure was recorded in the Sandy 8-12" P.Z. ecological site. The Sandy 8 – 12" P.Z. ecological site is extremely susceptible to wind erosion and small blow-out spots are common. The site description for this ecological site indicates that this kind of disturbance may occur over as much as two percent of the total surface area for the site without substantial impacts to overall condition. The record for the 2002 evaluation documents small evidence of this situation supporting the conclusion that this phenomenon is within the natural range of variability for this ecological site.

Records from the 2002 evaluation indicate plant mortality and decadence is rated as moderate for crested wheatgrass plants in the seeding.

Native vegetation mortality and decadence rated none to slight.

The 2008 evaluation supports the conclusions above.

A. Information relevant to **UPLAND SOILS, STANDARD 1**:
Susanville Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines:
Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform, and exhibit functional biological, chemical, and physical characteristics.

Meaning that: Precipitation is able to enter the soil surface and move through the soil profile at a rate appropriate to soil

type, climate, and landform; the soil is adequately protected against human caused wind or water erosion; and the soil fertility is maintained at, or improved to, the appropriate level.

Comments / Remarks:
Answers to the following were based on the field data collected on the Little Basin Allotment in September of 2002, along with management records and observations on the Little Basin Allotment from 1997 to 2007. Soils and ecological site information was also obtained from the 1999 Soil Survey of Washoe County, North Part.

Criteria

1. IS ground cover (vegetation, litter, and other types of ground cover, such as rock fragments) sufficient to protect sites from accelerated erosion? **Yes, the attribute rating for Soil/Site Stability was stable and Hydrologic Function was rated as functioning for all five evaluation sites in 2002 and is still currently valid. Due to the decreased use by livestock from 2003 – 2007, increases in ground cover were observed in 2008 compared with the 2002 ratings on the spray/release pasture, and spray and seed pasture (treated pastures). Following the 1980's spray and seeding, crested wheatgrass plants experienced high mortality rates. However, these perennial grasses were replaced by native perennial grasses and woody species such as sagebrush and rabbit brush. There is no recent plant mortality on either site.**

2. IS evidence of wind and water erosion, such as rills and gullies, pedestalling, scour, or sheet erosion, and deposition of dunes either absent or, if present, does not exceed what is natural for the site? **Yes, evidence of wind scouring is present. Wind scouring and deposition of soil is occurring on the Sandy 8 – 12" ecological site, but these soils are naturally extremely susceptible to wind erosion. The small blow-out spots are within the natural range of variability for this site.**

3. IS vegetation vigorous and diverse in species composition and age class, and does it reflect the Potential Natural Community or Desired Plant Community for the site? **Yes, on most sites. The seeding is now re-occupied with about 35%Wyoming big sagebrush, 20%Douglas rabbit brush, 30%crested wheatgrass, 10% Thurbers needlegrass, and other perennial grasses including Great Basin wild rye, needle and thread, and poa species, with native perennial forbs including lupine and buckwheat, spp. Cheatgrass was present near roads and watering sites. Current livestock use is not compromising the recovery of the seeding to a healthy state of potential natural community. However, natural recovery potential is consistent with soils and the potential of the site. The vegetation in the allotment (outside of the seeding) is vigorous and diverse; however, due to historic grazing practices some important bunchgrasses are not present in sufficient amounts in the lower pasture, although trend is upward.**

B. Information relevant to the **STREAM HEALTH, STANDARD 2**:
Susanville Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines:
Stream channel form and function are characteristic for the soil type, climate, and landform.

Meaning that: Channel gradient, pool frequency, width to depth ratio, roughness, sinuosity, and sediment transport are able to function naturally and are characteristic of the soil type, climate, and landform.

Comments / Remarks: There are no perennial streams on the Little Basin Allotment.

Criteria

1. ARE gravel bars and other coarse textured stream deposits successfully colonized and stabilized with woody riparian species? **N/A**

2. IS streambank vegetation vigorous and diverse, mostly perennial, and holding/protecting banks during high streamflow events? **N/A**

3. DOES the stream water surface have a high degree of shading, resulting in cooler water in summer and reduced icing in winter? **N/A**

4. ARE portions of the primary floodplain frequently flooded (inundated every 1 to 5 years)? **N/A**

C. Information relevant to the **WATER QUALITY, STANDARD 3**:
Susanville Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines:
Water will have characteristics suitable for existing or potential beneficial uses. Surface and groundwater complies with objectives of the Clean Water Act and other applicable water quality requirements, including meeting the California and

Nevada State standards, excepting approved variances.

Surface and groundwater complies with objectives of the Clean Water Act and other applicable water quality requirements, including meeting the State standards within the respective boundaries of the States of California and Nevada.

Comments / Remarks: **Surface water is associated with ephemeral systems, seeps, pit reservoirs and wells and neither surface water nor groundwater within the allotment has been listed for exceeding State water quality standards. All pit reservoirs and wells are currently meeting the needs of beneficial use for watering livestock and wildlife.**

Indications

1. ARE the chemical constituents, water temperature, nutrient loads, fecal coliform, turbidity, suspended sediment, and dissolved oxygen levels within the applicable requirements? **N/A**

2. ARE the standards for riparian, wetlands, and water bodies achieved? **Yes, (See standard 4 below)**

3. DO aquatic organisms and plants (e.g., macro-invertebrates, fish, algae, and plants) indicate support for beneficial uses? **N/A**

4. ARE there acceptable results from implementation and effectiveness monitoring or changes in management to address deficiencies identified by such monitoring? **N/A**

D. Information relevant to the **RIPARIAN AND WETLAND SITES, STANDARD 4:**
Susanville Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines:
Riparian and Wetland areas are in properly functioning condition and are meeting regional and local management objectives.

Meaning that: The riparian and wetland vegetation is controlling erosion, stabilizing stream banks, shading water areas to reduce water temperature, filtering sediment, aiding in floodplain development, dissipating energy, delaying floodwater and increasing recharge of ground water that is characteristic for these sites. Vegetation surrounding seeps and springs is controlling erosion and reflects the potential natural vegetation for the site.

Comments / Remarks: **Answers to the following were based on the field data collected on the Little Basin Allotment in 1986, 2007, and 2008, as well as management records and observations on the Little Basin Allotment.**
Note: Topographic maps show several springs in the northwest corner of the allotment. A field visit on 4 April 2008 confirmed that these are not springs or seeps but natural depressions that collect water and runoff that drain into an ephemeral lakebed. These depressions had no vegetation on them that would indicate they were riparian areas and they were not included in the water source inventory. The area called Sheep Camp Spring was searched for in the mid 1980's and before the prescribed fire in 1988, no spring was ever found. A seep in section 34, about 1 mile east of "Sheep Camp Spring" has been developed for livestock water by having a berm pushed up around it and therefore cannot be rated under the exemption for standard 4 (see the 1998 Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwestern Nevada Final EIS, 2-61). The assessment below is based on the riparian reach along the mostly ephemeral drainage segment in section 12.

Criteria

1. IS riparian vegetation sufficiently vigorous, mostly perennial, and sufficiently diverse in species composition, age class and life form to stabilize stream banks and shorelines?

Yes, aerial photos and field visits verify that between ½ and ¾ mile of the 'lentic' reach in section 12 remains wet with riparian characteristics. Photos from October 2007 show this site can hold water throughout the season and shorebirds such as killdeer are often seen foraging along it next to County Road 34. Species composition is dominated by Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*). No vegetation diversity information exists for the reach, however, considering the use that has occurred here and its effects on water flow patterns and water holding capacity, it is likely that diversity is less than normal for the site. However, dense riparian vegetation exists to protect streambanks.

2. IS riparian vegetation and large woody debris well anchored and capable of withstanding high streamflow events?
Given the flat topography and normal runoff for the area in section 12, riparian vegetation is adequate.

3. IS accelerated erosion (as a result of human related activities) evident?
Some OHV travel has occurred where this segment intersects County Road 34 which may be causing some erosion during spring runoff.

4. ARE age class and structure of woody riparian and wetland vegetation appropriate for the site?
No woody species were found along the riparian segment in sections 12 and 13. However, within the watershed, generally speaking, only riparian areas with perennial flowing water are known to have woody species such as willows and rose.

E. Information relevant to the **BIODIVERSITY STANDARD 5**:
Susanville Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines:
Viable, healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native and desired plant and animal species, including special status species, are maintained.

Meaning that: Native and other desirable plant and animal populations are diverse, vigorous, able to reproduce, and support nutrient cycles and energy flows.

Indicator(s) Observed	Information Reference (i.e. identify the information source used by type and date)
■ plant vigor (production, mortality, decadence)	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**
■ diversity of age classes	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**
■ recruitment	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**
■ community structure (layers)	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**
■ community diversity	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**
■ exotic plants (or invaders)	**2002 RHA and 2008 field visits**

■ wildlife life forms present (obligate) **Office internal notes, databases and staff sightings. The 2002 RHA noted mule deer, pronghorn antelope, small birds, rabbits (unk. sp.) and waterfowl in the allotment. Bighorn and elk are also thought to use areas in the northern portion of the allotment. The 2002 -2004 final report by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for NE California and NW Nevada noted 16 species of birds including several sagebrush obligate species. Ibis, red-winged black bird, Wilson's phalarope and kill deer were seen during field visits in 2008 to riparian areas.**

■ special status species **Sage-grouse (BLM sensitive) are known to use riparian areas in the allotment and one active golden eagle nest is located within 2 miles of the allotment, on the same rimrock that runs through the allotment. Although the allotment was surveyed for pygmy rabbit in 2006 field office survey, this species was not found in the allotment. No Carson wandering skipper or suitable habitat was found in the allotment.**

Criteria

1. DO wildlife habitats include seral stages, vegetation structure, and patch size to promote diverse and viable wildlife populations? **Yes. Although in the 1980s, 25% of this allotment was chemical treated for sagebrush removal, and 14.5% of the allotment was seeded to crested wheatgrass, Wyoming big sagebrush composition is currently 35-50% by weight, which is consistent with the ecological site descriptions. All pastures are currently managed for native grasses. The 2008 field visits noted sagebrush seedlings and increased native grass production in the treated areas. The RHA rated biological integrity as intact for all pastures. However, on the seeded pasture and the Bottomlands pasture, there was slight to moderate departures for invasive plants (cheatgrass occurrence), and annual production.**

The 1999 Partners in Flight (PIF) *Birds in a Sagebrush Sea* guidelines recommends that sagebrush patch sizes be no smaller than about 320 acres for sage sparrows, a sagebrush obligate bird. While the sprays treated patches (about 20 years prior to the RHA's) in excess of several thousand acres, and thus would have negatively affected species like sage sparrows, recent data indicates that at least in the spray and release pasture, bird diversity is doing well. The 2002-2004 final report by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) recorded 16 species of birds in the Spray/release pasture (is this good or bad) including brewer's sparrow and sage sparrow. These two species are noted in the final report as having the least habitat elasticity, almost always using big sagebrush species for nesting.

Sage-grouse R habitat ratings (GIS data based primarily on soils) for the Surprise Field Office estimated about 16% of the allotment as being intact for sage-grouse, about 25% being sagebrush limited with good understory, about 14% as sagebrush with limited understory and 13% as encroached by juniper. The last

32% of the allotment is salt desert shrub communities, and is not considered sage-grouse (non-sagebrush) habitat. The closest active sage-grouse lek is 3 miles away. A historic lek located about 1.25 miles away was last known active in 1976.

Notes from 1986 indicated many sage-grouse using the seep in section 34 of the allotment. In 2008, no sign of sage-grouse use was found at the seep or in the general vicinity. The area to the southeast, in the Massacre Lakes allotment was also checked with only old sage-grouse sign found. The 2,000 acre prescribed fire in the Mountain pasture in 1988 produced abundant wildlife hiding cover and food in the form of grasses, downed logs and nesting cavities. While sagebrush has been temporarily lost due to the fire, it is not known if the area was used extensively by sage-grouse for nesting. The 2002 RHA's estimated sagebrush cover between 30-50% for sites checked within the allotment.

2. ARE a variety of age classes present for most species?
Yes, in all pastures. The Mountain pasture prescribed burn has the highest variety, and Bottomlands pasture has the lowest variety.

3. IS vigor adequate to maintain desirable levels of plant and animal species to ensure reproduction and recruitment of plants and animals when favorable events occur?
Yes, the 2008 RHA rated plant vigor higher than the 2002 RHA in the (treatment pastures). The improved plant vigor is probably the result of normal precipitation in 2008 and lower utilization levels since 2002.

4. DOES the distribution of plant species and their habitats allow for reproduction and recovery from localized catastrophic events?
Yes. "Land cover" data for Washoe County showed habitat types and habitat communities well distributed across the landscape; however, distribution has been affected recently by large-scale land treatments.

5. ARE natural disturbances, such as fire, evident, but not catastrophic?
Yes. The Surprise Field Office GIS dataset shows one 40 acre lightning caused fire in 2007. The prescribed fire in the Mountain Pasture decreased Wyoming sagebrush cover. However, improvements in conditions are being realized within this treatment.

6. ARE non-native plant and animal species present at acceptable levels?
Yes. The Little Basin seeding (crested wheatgrass) constitutes approximately 14% of the allotment. The rest of the pastures in the allotment have varying amounts of cheatgrass (1-5%) mostly in association with the roads and watering sites; however, this species is not influencing the health or succession of native plants on the allotment. Besides the occasional chukar sighting, there are no known significant amounts of any non-native animal species. Visual inspection and analysis of soils and satellite imagery indicates that as much as 13% of the allotment has juniper increasing into other habitats. A portion of the juniper encroached area was burned during the 1988 prescribed fire.

7. ARE habitat areas sufficient to support diverse, viable, and desired populations, AND are they adequately connected with other similar habitat areas? **Yes, most of the allotment has a sufficient understory of grasses and forbs to allow management to move this area to potential or desired plant communities. The 1988 prescribed fire created about 2,000 acres of excellent hiding and nesting cover in the form of tall grasses, snags for cavity nesting species and downed logs for rodent and birds. In addition, land cover data for Washoe County shows habitats within the allotment are connected to those outside of the allotment.**

Riparian areas are extremely important in arid regions. While vegetation diversity may be lower than expected the riparian reach in section 12 is providing habitat for wildlife such as killdeer, ibis, red-winged blackbird, Wilson's phalarope, ducks, large ungulates and small mammals.

8). IS adequate organic matter (litter and standing dead plant material) present for site protection and decomposition to replenish soil nutrients and maintain soil health? **Yes, although the RHA rated litter amount as "slight to moderate" in the spray and seed pasture, and one site in the Mountain pasture. The soil and site stability was rated as "stable" for all pastures.**

PART III - SUMMARY OF STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION AND RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION ON STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate the following with regard to standards achievement for the area identified in Part I:

Standard	Determination on Standard Achievement (check appropriate box for each standard)
Upland Soils	■ Met / □ Not met but progressing towards / □ Not met and not progressing towards / □ N/A
Stream Health	□ Met / □ Not met but progressing towards / □ Not met and not progressing towards / ■ N/A
Water Quality	□ Met / □ Not met but progressing towards / □ Not met and not progressing towards / ■ N/A
Riparian/Wetland	■ Met / □ Not met but progressing towards / □ Not met and not progressing towards / □ N/A
Biodiversity	■ Met / □ Not met but progressing towards / □ Not met and not progressing towards / □ N/A

B. RATIONALE SUPPORTING STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION

The Standard for Upland Soils: Is currently being met for the Little Basin Allotment #01004. The Little Basin Allotment has an abundance of total cover to protect the soil from wind and water impacts (raindrop and surface flow) and the Soil Stability rating is well within the range of variability for site.

The Standard for Stream Health: N/A - There are no perennial streams located on public lands within the allotment.

The Standard for Water Quality: N/A - Surface water is associated with ephemeral systems, seeps, pit reservoirs and wells and neither surface water nor groundwater within the allotment has been listed for exceeding State water quality standards. All pit reservoirs and wells are currently meeting the needs of beneficial use for watering livestock and wildlife.

The Standard for Riparian Wetland Areas: Is met for the Little Basin Allotment. While the riparian reach in section 12 has likely seen past use that altered water flow patterns somewhat and therefore would have affected species diversity, this reach is functional. Abundant water is available year long and dense riparian vegetation exists to protect streambanks.

The Standard for Biodiversity: Most of the allotment has diverse habitats with varied age structures and biotic integrity was rated as intact for all pastures except the seeding pasture. While sage-grouse use appears to have declined within the allotment, the cause or timing of this event is unclear. Many other wildlife types including sagebrush obligate birds are known to use the allotment. Both the spray/release and the 1988 prescribed burn have produced good amounts of hiding and nesting cover as well as varied opportunities for food. The riparian area along the reach in section 12 is providing drinking water and habitat for many wildlife species not found in other parts of the allotment. Water availability (both natural and manmade) appears to be limiting use of the allotment by wildlife and livestock.

PART IV - FOR THOSE STANDARDS NOT ACHIEVED, SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) DETERMINATION AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate that the following are contributing factors for failing to achieve the standards as indicated in Part III for the area identified in Part I:
Non-achieved Standard (s) (from Part III):

FLPMA Principal or Major Uses	Information Reference (what data was reviewed - type and information date)	
□ Domestic Livestock Grazing	□ actual grazing use	_ _____
	□ grazing "licenses"	_____
	□ utilization records	_____
	□ field notes / photographs	_____ _____
	□ other	_ _____
□ Fish and Wildlife Development and Utilization	□ utilization	_____
□ Mineral Exploration and Development	□ road building	_____

□ Rights-of-way □ _____ _____

□ Outdoor Recreation □ road building _____
□ Timber Production □ _____ _____

Other Events or Circumstances Considered Information Reference (what data was reviewed - type and information date)

□ Wild horse and Burro use □ census / distribution data _____
□ other _____
□ exotic plant presence _____
□ insect impacts _____
□ abnormal fire frequency or lack of fire_____
□ abnormal climatic events ___ _____
□ other _____ _____

CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) (LIST):

B. RATIONALE FOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR DETERMINATION

PART V - BLM STAFF WHO REVIEWED THE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDED PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE STANDARD(S)

The following staff have participating in examining the information listed in Part II and in making the standard(s) achievement and contributing factor determination(s).

Elias Flores, Wildlife Biologist
Alan Uchida, Watershed Specialist
Steve Mathews, Rangeland Management Specialist
Steve Surian Sup. Rangeland Management Specialist/Wild Horse Specialist

SIGNATURES:	TITLES:
_____	Wildlife Biologist
_____	Watershed Specialist
_____	Rangeland Management Specialist
_____	Sup. Rangeland Management Specialist/Wild Horse Specialist

In the cases where the standards are not achieved and after considering all relevant information, we recommend that the priority for developing and implementing appropriate action to achieve standards in the area identified in Part I be (check one):

□ high □ medium □ low

We base our recommendation on the following ratings of the following factors:

Biological / Physical
Severity of resource impacts resulting from non-achievement of the standard - □ high □ medium □ low
Size of affected area -
Ability to arrest further degradation - □ easily done □ unknown □ difficult
Other:

Administrative

Proportion of federal land in the allotment - □ high □ medium □ low

Pending administrative actions (permit lease renewal / transfer, etc.) - □ pending □ not pending until FY ____

Other _____

Social

Anticipated cooperation of the permittee / lessee - □ expected □ not expected □ unknown

Legal requirements □ compelling □ not compelling

Other _____

Economic Considerations

PART VI - DOCUMENTATION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERMITTEES, STATE AGENCIES AND THE INTERESTED PUBLIC IN MAKING STANDARDS CONFORMANCE DETERMINATION AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS DETERMINATION

Indicate the occurrence of public participation (e.g. permittee, interested public, other Federal or State /local agency), or opportunities for public participation that pertains to the review of standards achievement and contributing factors (who, when, and conversation or meeting summary): **The public was notified of the project in January 2008, and a scoping letter was sent to 66 interested publics of record (including the permittee) on January 17, 2008. Western Watersheds Project and Nevada Department of Wildlife contributed comments that were carefully considered.**

PART VII - AUTHORIZED OFFICER'S DETERMINATION AND PRIORITY FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

(X) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use in the Little Basin Allotment #01004 promotes achievement of significant progress towards the Approved Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing of July, 2000 and conforms with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use in the Little Basin Allotment #01004 will require modification or a change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Approved Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing of July, 2000 and conforms with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

I have reviewed and concur with the determinations and supporting rationale regarding the achievement or lack thereof of rangeland health standards documented herein and, in the cases where standards are not achieved, the determination and rationale regarding the contributing factor(s) for failure to achieve the standards. I have determined that the priority for developing and implementing appropriate action to achieve significant progress to achieve standards for the area identified in Part I is (check one)

Priority: □ high □ medium □ low

Staff is directed to develop appropriate action for my consideration and implementation in accordance with this priority.

Shane DeBoest 12-2-08

SURPRISE FIELD MANAGER DATE

COMMENTS: